

Serial No. 09/835,870

Reply to Office Action of October 12, 2005 and Advisory Action of January 3, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-22, 24, and 25 were pending in the application.

Claim 1 is amended to include the subject matter of objected to but otherwise allowable dependent claim 3, which is cancelled.

Claims 20-22, 24, and 25 are cancelled by this Amendment.

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-14, and 16-19 remain in the application for consideration by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Advisory Action mailed January 3, 2006 states that the previously-filed Amendment had overcome the rejections of claims 3, 14, and 16-19, but the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, 20-22, 24, and 25 were maintained.

Claim 14 is an independent claim and claims 16-19 depend from claim 14, and hence, claims 14 and 16-19 are believed in condition for allowance.

To further the allowance of the application, the limitations of claim 3, which depends from claim 1, are added to claim 1. As a result, claim 1 is believed in condition for allowance as are claims 2, 4, 5, and 7-13, which depend from claim 1.

Rejected claims 20-22, 24, and 25 are cancelled.

After entry of these claim amendments, all pending claims are believed to contain allowable subject matter or to depend from such a claim, and the application is believed in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

The Advisory Action on page 2 indicated Applicants' arguments regarding claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-13, 20-22, 24, and 25 were not deemed persuasive and the rejections made in the October 12, 2005 Final Office Action stand. However, Applicants have addressed all claim rejections by amending claim 1 to include allowable subject matter and by canceling claims 20-22, 24, and 25.

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Conclusions

The claim amendments are being made only to place the case in condition for allowance and do not raise any new issues. Therefore, entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested, and after entry of the claim amendments, it is requested that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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